

International Agribusiness Center

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GAINS Reports

Dutch Mink Industry to Close in 2021 Due to Coronavirus – [link](#)

The government has elected to put an end to Dutch mink farming three years ahead of schedule due to the recent coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreaks on the country's mink farms. More than one-third of all Dutch mink farms have been infected by COVID-19, to date. The 'fur period' starts in November and once all minks have been stripped of their fur, the breeders will not longer be permitted to place new animals in their cages (effectively shuttering the industry by the end of March 2021). In the meantime, additional control measures have been imposed on the industry, and a mandatory buyout scheme will be established to buyout the industry before it was scheduled to close in 2024.

Overview of COVID-19 Impacts on Canadian Agriculture – [link](#)

Canada's effective national pandemic response has helped Canada's food and agriculture industries settle into a relatively stable 'new normal' operating environment, despite acute disruptions early in the COVID era. Canadian food and agricultural industries appear to have avoided many of the dire predictions made in the spring of 2020, and the largest bilateral agricultural trade relationship is functioning relatively smoothly in spite of the continued border closure.

India - FSSAI Reinstates Food Additives and Food Standards Amendment Regulation in Meat and Meat Products – [link](#)

On August 17, 2020, the Government of India's Food Safety and Standards Authority of India re-instituted its draft Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Amendment Regulation 2020, relating to meat and meat products. This amendment required an alignment with the relevant standards for feeds/feed materials used for meat and milk producing animals established by the Bureau of Indian Standards. The earlier compliance date of July 28, 2020 has now been extended until January 1, 2021.

Armenia to Have Beef Pork Poultry and Whey TRQs in 2021 – [link](#)

On August 18, 2020, the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) issued Decision No. 102, establishing tariff-rate quotas (TRQs) and respective volumes for imports of meat, poultry, and whey into the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). In line with the WTO commitments, Russia's TRQ volumes will remain unchanged from 2020. TRQ volumes for Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz republic will also be the same as in 2020, while Armenia will have TRQs for beef, pork, poultry and whey in 2021, for the first time since its EAEU accession in 2015.

Canada - Poultry and Products Annual – [link](#)

FAS/Canada projects modest growth in chicken meat production in 2021, as federal and provincial governments as well as consumers remain cautious in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Calendar year 2021 import tariff rate quota volumes are expected to reach nearly 105,000 metric tons (MT), of which 49,000 MT will be available exclusively to U.S. suppliers following USMCA implementation. FAS/Canada expects the United States to maintain a greater than 80 percent share of total Canadian chicken meat imports in 2021.



Polish ASF Cases Spike in Summer 2020 – [link](#)

From January 1, 2020, through August 28, Poland has detected 71 African swine fever (ASF) cases among domestic hogs and 3,078 cases in wild boars. August 2020 set a record 54 domestic ASF cases, most of which occurred on smallholder farms in the Lubelskie and Warmia-Mazury Provinces in eastern Poland. Polish veterinary authorities implemented the prescribed protection and surveillance protocols to contain the outbreaks

Australia - Food Service - Hotel Restaurant Institutional – [link](#)

The Australian consumer food service industry is valued at A\$59 billion. Australia's commercial food service sector is a competitive market and with an ageing population, the institutional food service sector (aged care, hospitals, etc.) continues to grow. Most industry operators in the hotel and resort sector derive a significant portion of revenue from the sale of meals and beverages prepared at onsite restaurants. Information on the effects of government reaction to COVID-19, and the effects of the restrictions introduced, are included throughout the report.

Food Processing Magazine

Candy Sales Rise During Pandemic – [link](#)

Sales of chocolate and candy have shot up during the pandemic, especially at grocery stores, according to figures from the National Confectioners Association.

In the period from March 15 to Aug. 9, overall sales of candy and chocolate **have increased** 3.8% over the same period last year. Chocolate was up 5.5%, and premium chocolate, 12.5%. In grocery stores, the bounce was even more pronounced: all chocolate and candy sales up 16.6%, with chocolate alone up 17.9% and premium chocolate up 21.4%. The sales increase is seen as part of the broad trend of consumers turning to comfort foods and indulgences as they're stuck at home by the pandemic.

Tyson Foods to Put Health Clinics at Plants – [link](#)

Tyson Foods plans to establish health centers for employees at several of its plants, including some that have seen outbreaks of COVID-19, the company announced Sept. 3.

Scheduled to open next year, the seven clinics will be operated by Marathon Health, a company that specializes in on-site health services for employers. It will offer mostly preventive services, such as screenings for conditions like hypertension and diabetes, free or at reduced cost to Tyson workers and their dependents. The new clinics are intended to supplement Tyson's care for workplace-related injuries by focusing more on employees' overall health. Tyson recently created the position of chief medical officer and beefed up its in-house medical staff to help improve COVID testing.

Disclaimer: This list is by no means complete, for more information please refer to the links above.